

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2388

UNCLAS MEXICO 0540

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, APER, MX

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF CODEL WOLFF ON ARREST AND DETENTION PROGRAM

REF: MEXICO 242

1. IN FAREWALL TALK WITH AMBASSADOR, CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN RAISED PROBLEM OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND GILMAN'S VISIT TO LECUMBERRI JANUARY 7. AS REPORTED REFTEL, GILMAN WAS PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF VISIT AND HIS EXCHANGE WITH PRISONERS. GILMAN WAS VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY RELATIONSHIP VICE CONSUL WOOD HAD DEVELOPED WITH PRISONERS, WHOSE ONLY COMPLAINT AGAINST EMBASSY WAS THAT WOOD WAS NOT ABLE TO VISIT THEM OFTEN ENOUGH. GILMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OFFICERS WORKING ON PRISONER PROBLEM ARE STRETCHED TOO THIN TRYING TO COPE WITH INCREASING WORKLOAD. BOTH GILMAN AND WOLFF STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PRISONER PROBLEM IN THEIR VIEW AND IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING AEDQUATE STAFF TO HANDLE PROBLEM EFFECTIVELY, PROMISING THEIR SUPPORT IN CONGRESS TO ANY EFFORTS BY DEPARTMENT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. COMMENT: PRISONERS AT LECUMBERRI ARE VISITED AT LEAST TWO AND OFTERN FOUR TIMES MONTHLY. HOWEVER, WORKLOAD OF ARREST AND DETENTION UNIT CONTINUES SNOWBALLING WITH CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, CASE REVIEWS, AND WORK GENERATED BY MORE FREQUENT VISITS

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TO PRISONERS, MORE FREQUENT CORRESPONDENCE WITH

FAMILIES AND CONGRESSMEN, AND REQUESTS OF PRISONERS.
IT IS OUR RELUCTANT CONCLUSION THAT MORE PERSONNEL
WILL BE REQUIRED TO HANDLE THIS WORKLOAD IN
COMING MONTHS, AND OUR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS
WILL BE REPORTED IN SEPTTEL.
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